

Kearsley Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

1950



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## Members of the Health Committee.

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### *Chairman :*

Councillor R. CROWTHER.

### *Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor W. HOLEHOUSE

### *Members :*

Councillor Mrs. A. M. HOGG, J.P.

„ J. MARTIN, J.P., C.C.

„ S. CURRY.

„ E. HOWARD.

„ W. TAYLOR.

„ J. ECKERSLEY.

„ A. H. WYLD.

„ T. FIELDING.

„ N. A. TATLOCK.

„ T. ROBINSON.

„ J. HOLLINSHEAD.

„ S. A. CHALONER.

„ B. E. TAYLOR

## Staff of the Public Health Department.

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Sanitary and Meat Inspector* - F. BROOK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Clerk :* Miss J. HALLAM.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1950, on the health of the Urban District, and the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

The increase in the number of infectious diseases is due to the increased incidence of measles; a disease which was due in epidemic form in the district in the year under review, or is due in the following year.

It is pleasing to record that diphtheria can now be relegated to the class of rare infectious diseases.

There is still a great deal of atmospheric deposit, and whilst the tests now being carried out by the Electricity Board may be of academic interest, there is evidence enough that some measures to mitigate this nuisance should be instituted forthwith.

I have, as in previous years, enjoyed the help and encouragement of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and, as ever, the loyal co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector and staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.)

POPULATION—Estimated 1950—10,720.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Births : Legitimate ... ..	151	81	70
Illegitimate ... ..	3	2	1
Birth-rate per 1000 population, 14·4.			

Still Births ... ..	5	4	1
Rate per 1000 total births, 31.			

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Deaths ... ..	159	84	75
Death rate per 1000 population, 15·9.			

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Legitimate ... ..	5	3	2
Illegitimate ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Infantile Mortality Rate—32·0 per 1000 births

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil.

### Causes of Death in 1950.

Cancer ... ..	23
Heart diseases ... ..	69
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	6
Bronchitis ... ..	12
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	2
Respiratory tuberculosis ... ..	4

Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
TOTAL							159

### Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The following is a list of cases of infectious disease notified during the year 1950 :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Scarlet fever	13
Whooping cough	32
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	2
Measles	81
Meningococcal Infection	2
Acute primary pneumonia	6

Cases removed to hospital from the district :—

Scarlet fever	7
Meningococcal Infection	1
Acute primary pneumonia	2
Whooping Cough	1

Tuberculosis—Cases notified :—

Respiratory	4
Non-respiratory	3

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.



### **Food Poisoning.**

There was only one case (non-fatal) of food poisoning reported during the year.

### **Infantile Paralysis.**

There were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis reported during the year.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, and there were no deaths. Six of the cases were nursed at home.

### **Diphtheria.**

For the fourth year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria to record.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

### **Diphtheria Antitoxin.**

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, to general practitioners for patients residing within the district. A supply has been available in 10,000 units for therapeutic use. During the year none was requested.

### **Atmospheric Pollution.**

There is still a considerable deposit of grit and carbon in the district. This deposit is being measured over a period of time, and with a recording of the weather conditions.

It is hoped that as a result of this extensive test, efficient counter measures can be instituted to remove this nuisance.

## Water Supply.

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are 4 houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department, and Irwell Valley Water Board:—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water.	145	—
Results:	Satisfactory	—
No. of chemical analyses.	36	
Results:	Satisfactory	—
Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—		
No. of bacteriological examinations.	145	137
Results:	Satisfactory	Mainly satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses.	36	30
Results:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.	Action not necessary.	All water chlorinated at source.
Liability to plumbo-solvent action.	No.	Yes.
Analyses for plumbo-solvent action.	—	137
Results:	—	Mainly Satisfactory.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1)	By the local authority	...	...	30
(2)	By other local authorities	...	...	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	4

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	62
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	62
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	62

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	50
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year:-

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By owners	15
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners ... ..	13
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :-

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	2
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	2
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	14
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	15

5. Any other action taken :-

Two dwelling houses were voluntarily closed and demolished by the owner, at the request of the Council.

## 6. Housing Conditions:-

Approximately 41% of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19% as medium, and 40% as modern.

There are approximately 300 families in lodgings, which still require housing.

### Particulars of any housing scheme:-

#### (i) In hand at end of year--

Twenty-four Cottage Flats, by Contract, sixteen Bungalows, by Direct Labour, and twelve two-bedroomed houses, by Direct Labour.

#### (ii) Contemplated :—

Erection of ten two-bedroomed type houses, by Direct Labour.



# Report of the Sanitary Inspector

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## NOTICES.

Seventy-nine preliminary notices and fifteen statutory notices were served during the year.

## HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year.

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	20
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	8
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	154,702
Pails	...	...	...	...	202
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	1,549

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method of tipping continues to be most satisfactory.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	3,602
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	77
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	3
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	3,465
Pails	...	...	...	...	7
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	4
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	4

Eleven waste water closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with :—

<i>Sewage Works.</i>		<i>Method of Treatment.</i>
Clammerclough ...	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley ...	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filter, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee ...	...	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic electric ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected on seventeen occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year fifteen samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that all the samples were negative.

### ICE CREAM.

Seven premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Twenty-eight samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination. Five of the samples were unsatisfactory, but further samples were taken, and the results were then satisfactory.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year, the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

52 lbs. beef.  
13 lbs. bacon.  
69 lbs. butter.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

A total of sixty samples was taken during the year, thirty-six being of milk and the twenty-four others comprising :—

1 Pickles, mixed	4 Borax
1 Pickles, onions	1 Dried Sage
1 Pickles, gherkins	2 Dried Mint
1 Piccalilli	3 Arrowroots
1 Lemon Cheese Cakes	2 Liquorice Powder
1 Iced Cakes	1 Compound Liquorice Powder
1 Currant Cakes	1 Sage and Onion Stuffing
1 Custard Pies	2 Dried Parsley

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following :—

Samples.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 Dried Parsley.	Contained 18.0% sand and other silicious matter.	Formal sample obtained.
1 Dried Parsley.	Contained 5.2% sand and other silicious matter.	Packers cautioned.
1 Informal Milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% of extraneous water.	} Same Vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Informal Milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.3% of extraneous water.	

## FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES.

During the year, fifty-seven visits were paid to factories and workplaces, and forty-seven visits to bakehouses.

The inspections included visits to furniture manufacturers, confectionery manufacturers, motor body builders and garages.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Three houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and these were disinfested by the use of insecticide.

## RODENT CONTROL.

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, and both sides of the river bank and fifty-six premises in the Urban district have been disinfested.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ Property under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	312
„ Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	57
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ Shops	...	...	...	...	...	84
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	17
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	77
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	94
General Visits—no nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	963
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